

20 April 2020

## Y13 Summer 1 Update

Dear Year 13 Parents & Students,

I hope you have managed to have a bit of a rest over Easter. Please note these important points about the term ahead.

### Centre Assessed Grades

Ofqual (the organisation responsible for overseeing all exams and qualifications) have issued guidance on how grades will be awarded, which we have shared with you. The only new information since I last wrote is that **grades will be released on the normal results day, Thursday 13 August**. I expect that school will be open as normal on that day for us to hand out results, but we will confirm details closer to the date.

At the risk of repeating ourselves, here is a reminder of the key points:

- **Teachers and heads of department will be assigning you grades based on a range of evidence.** This will not just be your mock results, your NEA results, your AS grades, targets or predicted grades. These will be important, but we will also look at classwork and homework. We will factor in the progress we expected you to make between March and the actual exams. We will do this fairly, and any student who is unhappy will be able to take an actual exam in the autumn to challenge the result.
- **We cannot discuss with you the grades, so please don't ask us.** The guidance explicitly bans us from doing so, and it would be illegal and risk everyone's grade if we did. You will find out your grade in August, with everyone else in the UK.
- **You do not need to do any more work for your A Level grades, and instead we are going to set different work to support your progression to university.** You should not worry if you didn't complete a March mock, for example. Any work you did in the two weeks before Easter or over the holiday is worthwhile and it's good to submit it, but candidates won't be disadvantaged if they didn't do this.

Please see the KAA website for a copy of all the letters we have sent about this, and for a copy of the Ofqual letter to students, which we also shared with you.

### Work over the coming weeks

The Ofqual decision not to require further A Level work **creates an exciting opportunity for your learning this half term** and **we strongly encourage you to make the most of it**. Year 13 will follow an open timetable and will direct their own study. Developing this independence is key preparation for university. You should make your own schedules, following the suggestions from University@KAA outlined below:



- a. **University reading lists.** Almost all students in Year 13 want to go on to university in the autumn. Heads of department will publish suggested reading lists for their subjects. **We are very happy to use some of the Sixth Form bursary fund** to help you get some of these books if you are struggling – please ask your head of department, who will collate a list (but do remember that the funds are not limitless).
- b. **Undergraduate seminars.** Teachers will put on undergraduate-level seminars, which you will be able to sign up for. I expect you will all want to do this (if you don't, are you really choosing the right course at university?), but it is entirely optional. The only thing we would ask is that you **sign up at least a week in advance**, do any pre-reading set, and then attend, so that teachers don't waste a huge amount of time in preparation.
- c. **Self-directed study.** There is a world of MOOCs and TED talks out there. If you find something particularly interesting, please do share it with everyone else and with your head of department, so it can be integrated into University@KAA. If there is a particularly good MOOC, we may be able to help with (modest) course fees via the bursary fund. Please go via your head of department, who will be able to have a look and recommend it (or not).
- d. **Autumn exams.** You know what grades you have had throughout the year, including your grades from the mocks. You also know what limitations we are working under as a school, and that we cannot submit inflated centre-assessed grades, which will endanger other students' grades. You will have made sensible inferences about what grade you are likely to get, and many of you have had discussions with me and Mr Whitlock about which university offer to accept. Some of you will therefore have realised that sitting the autumn exams is going to be the only way to produce a step-change in your results. If you want to do this, you will need to work consistently between now and then. The first step is to **indicate that you wish to do this by completing the very brief survey** which will come round on a separate email. A conversation will certainly follow with me or Mr Whitlock, and heads of department will then put together a programme for you.

### University choices

Many of you have made your firm and insurance choices, but most of you haven't yet. Your individual UCAS Track will show the date by which you must reply (19 May or 18 June depending on individual circumstances), **but now is a good time to do this**. You can then apply for student finance and accommodation. Please do ask me or Mr Whitlock for advice if you are unsure. Remember the key thing:

- Ambitious is fine for your firm choice.
- Your insurance choice must be sensible.

Clearing will work in the normal way if you do not get either of your two choices. Even if you are planning to do the autumn exams, you must secure yourself a place (either your insurance choice or via clearing), as there is no guarantee that your grade will be better, and there is no guarantee that universities will be able to enrol you this autumn even if you get the necessary grades, because the timing will be awkward.



### **Textbooks and Chromebooks**

Every year, there is a big struggle to get back all the textbooks and the Chromebooks that we have handed out, which costs the school thousands of pounds. **We would very much like them all back** (except if you have paid £50 to buy your Chromebook). When we are open again, we will be in touch with details of how to return things. Please bring the books back – if you don't it makes it very hard to provide the same level of education to the year group behind you.

### **Leavers' BBQ**

Obviously, the leavers' party has had to be suspended, and it is unlikely that we will be able to reinstate it later in the summer. We will therefore have a leavers' barbecue on the terrace in school at some point in June or early July once school is open again, when all your teachers will have the chance to say goodbye properly. We all very much hope you will come to this. The BBQ will be free and will be in the early evening, but I just don't know exactly when yet!

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Rob Pavey'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large 'R' and 'P'.

**Rob Pavey**  
**Vice Principal – Sixth Form**